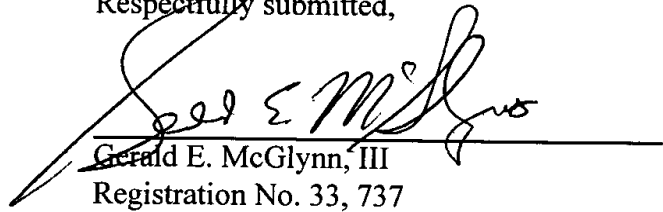


REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were originally pending in the PCT application to which this application claims priority. On September 22, 2000, a new set of claims 1-7 were submitted to the International Preliminary Examining Authority. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are presently pending in this application. The specification has been amended to include headings that conform to standard U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits favorable action toward allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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